

The Sun

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Congress.
If Congress could devote the entire short session which opens to-day to the problems springing from the demand of the four brotherhoods for an eight hour day, it would not have sufficient time to study them as they deserve. Already organized labor has declared against the legislation advocated by the President, and his recommendations will precipitate a bitter struggle. Moreover, they cannot be intelligently acted on without consideration of the adverse conditions which have crippled the transportation corporations in the past, the evil effects of which on trade and commerce are more apparent now than ever before. The distribution of foodstuffs and the maintenance of reasonable prices therefor are involved in this to an extent commonly overlooked, and this factor must receive attention.
But Congress cannot give all its time to these subjects, important though they are. The appropriation bills must be passed; the routine activities of the Government must be provided for, and the naval and military measures adopted at the first session must be overhauled and strengthened. Much may be accomplished in committee, but neither House nor Senate will be expected to accept committee proposals without at least a slight pretence of examination.

Alarm in the Liquor Trade.
It is apparent that the successes of the prohibition movement in widely separated States cannot be adequately accounted for on the ground of local conditions. While the Southern States were outlawing the saloon it was easy to point to the negro and say that his weakness must be guarded against. But Missouri defeated prohibition at the last election, while Michigan, Montana, Nebraska and South Dakota adopted it. Bonanza Wine and Spirit Circular does not attempt to conceal the uneasiness intelligent men in the liquor industry feel over the outlook:
"It is well known that prohibition laws are ineffective and create conditions in many instances far worse than even badly conducted saloons, and we hold no brief for the indecent drinking emporiums; but something is radically wrong and we are searching for the cause, because we believe that the liquor industry of the United States is facing a crisis which may not prove fatal if the proper remedies are applied without delay."
"We have lost much ground. We must lose any more or we shall be dangerously near national prohibition, and that means the destruction of our vast industry in all of its branches. It means confiscation of capital and property. It means pauperism for hundreds of thousands of men and women who now make their livelihood out of the employment given them by the liquor industry."
"All these arguments have been used with no avail. The people continue to outlaw our business in one State after another."

This authority believes the whole trade should organize, not merely to prosecute its defense in the way it has been conducted heretofore, but to examine the record, disclose the errors that have been made and adopt new methods for protection. It believes the industry may save itself, but it recognizes that it must work hard in order to do it.

Rice.
Meat, grain, vegetables have all risen in price to an extent that worries not only the housekeeper but the provider of the family. But amid all the increase of prices there is one great food staple that remains cheap and wholesome, though perhaps too little used and appreciated in the run of American households. Rice is one of the most delicious and nourishing substances mankind feeds upon.
Properly cooked, rice forms the basis of a hearty meal, at which there is no need to serve meat of any kind. It is best simply boiled well, and eaten with butter, butter and sugar, or sugar and milk. Every family could and should have one rice dinner a week.
There are innumerable ways in which this grain may be utilized. Rice cakes make a good breakfast dish. Boiled rice, with fresh, stewed or preserved fruit, is a better dessert than more costly elaborations of the kitchen. Not every cook knows that there are two radically different types of rice pudding. The older and less expensive requires no eggs. It is based

on rice and milk, well flavored with nutmeg—a sort of compromise between nectar and ambrosia.
While macaroni and spaghetti make excellent meatless meals they are not so cheap as they used to be, particularly in the fancy packaged styles now put forth. But either employed with rice will afford two meatless dinners a week. Rice may also be used as a vegetable, for it now costs less than potatoes. Beefsteak and rice, or beefsteak and hominy are often more palatable than beefsteak with the conventional vegetables. If the tradition of its cooking did not seem to have perished utterly, we should speak of beefsteak and Injun puddin'. How good they were!

But any one can learn to cook rice. The habit of eating it is one step toward Chinifying America that even Colonel Roosevelt would approve.

Champ's Abiding Faith.
If ever an advocate of preparedness begins to despair of his subject we advise him to go out and get the freshest arguments of the pacifists or of those who believe that America "can lick everybody." As an example of that pacifism which stimulates the believer in preparedness, we quote from an article in the Independent by the Hon. CHAMP CLARK:

"If we attend to our own business we will never have another war."
What is a nation's own business is a question which, some cynic may suggest, has been the cause of several wars. But CHAMP was not there to decide for the squabblers. He adds the grandest and most convincing of the pacifist arguments:

"The people are not willing to see this country turned into an armed camp."
Possibly the Speaker did not visit France before the war. Several miles of military age were there observed in ordinary dress, and it was quite possible to walk the streets without being impaled on a sabre. But this war will soon end, take it from CHAMP:

"The great nations of the earth cannot stand much longer this piling up of armaments by land and sea."
Predictions of that kind were made before the war was a month old; it was too great a war, it would fall of its own weight, &c. But the greatest battle of the war is now on with no lack of fury. Even so, what is that to US CHAMP argues:

"I do not believe there is a nation on earth that has little enough sense to attack us, I do not care a straw which one it is; and I have abiding faith that if one of them does attack us it will get licked in the end."

No nation will ever attack us if it first talks the matter over with CHAMP CLARK; but the crafty enemy, hearing of CHAMP's abiding faith, may keep away from him. "It will get licked in the end." Perhaps in Europe one side will get licked in the end, but if the victor was unprepared when entering the war will he be glad that he was unprepared? By the memory of a million dead men, no!

Conserve the Children's Health.
Health conservation is one of the most important functions of government, and the maintenance of a high physical and mental standard among children is the basis of general health and efficiency. These are axiomatic facts which are most clearly demonstrated in the observation of statisticians, who have shown that the diminution of mortality in the general population stands in direct ratio to the mortality among infants and children. It follows that the maintenance of health among school children merits the utmost care and judicious expenditure of public funds.

Sir GEORGE NEWMAN, President of the Local Government Board of London, reports that among 6,000,000 children in the elementary schools of England and Wales there are 1,000,000 in defective physical condition and 250,000 really too ill profitably to receive instruction. A recent investigation by the United States Public Health Service shows an almost equally bad condition in the health of children in our country schools by reason chiefly of unsuitable food and lack of facilities for outdoor play and systematic physical exercise. In a manual of diseases of infants and children by Dr. GEORGE RUTHERFORD it is stated that urban boys between the ages of six and seventeen and girls between the ages of twelve and seventeen were below the average height.

Sir GEORGE NEWMAN attributes the deterioration of English children to their improper management during school life of about nine years. He insists that children who are not in good health should not be admitted until they present a condition favorable to their physical improvement during school life. In many of the larger cities of the United States municipal authorities have wisely furnished not only medical men to ascertain the condition of school children, but the most progressive health authorities have also provided trained nurses to assist the physicians by following up the defective cases in their homes. These nurses have become effective agents for the discovery and tracing of infectious diseases, which otherwise would have escaped attention, and in this manner dissemination of these diseases has been greatly diminished. The defects among the children in country schools were practically the same as those in the school children of the city.
In a recent bulletin of the Department of Health it was shown that defective vision, hearing, breathing, the teeth and enlarged tonsils were the chief causes of depreciated physical condition in 16 per cent. of the children—almost the same proportion as that reported by Sir GEORGE NEWMAN

in England. Their early discovery would conduce not only to the improvement of the children's health, but to increased mental capacity.
In view of the fact that this combination tends to diminish the number of retarded children, who must be reeducated, it is unfortunate that the Board of Estimate of this city has refused to grant the sum of \$75,000 in excess of last year's appropriation, asked for by the Bureau of Child Hygiene of the Board of Health.

The immense value of good physical condition of school children in the welfare of the nation has been demonstrated in the great emergency with which England was confronted in the present struggle for its national existence. If the English boys had been maintained in better physical condition than that discovered by Sir GEORGE NEWMAN, the rejections of recruits for army service would not have been so numerous as almost to imperil national safety. That we are confronted with a similar catastrophe has been demonstrated by Dr. TALIAFERRO CLARK, in a report of the United States Public Health Service of October 6, which reveals the astonishing fact that among 11,000 applicants for the United States Marine Corps in New York city only 316 were accepted as meeting the required physical standard. Dr. CLARK holds that in the case of volunteers the rejections were traceable to physical disabilities, due to defects of vision and hearing, faulty teeth, heart disease and imperfect carriage, all of which were remediable while still in their incipency during childhood.

It becomes evident that the school authorities are responsible not only for the mental but also for the physical development of their charges, and that their activities must not be limited by their local horizon.

Thoughts on Talk.

The janitors of our speech have once more conferred on us the benefits of their observations. Professor SCOTT of the University of Michigan welcomes the first faint signs of a day in which we shall communicate with each other in a comely tongue, to be known as American, composed in about equal proportions of Webster and Fields dialect, and the "simple, homely" product of MONTAGUE GLASS's reportorial genius, impaired but not rendered unintelligible by a trace of our inheritance from King JAMES and SHAKESPEARE. It will be neither Southern nor New England; if we catch the scholastic lilt, it will be an extension of the East Side's lingua franca over the United States.

Professor SCOTT assures us, unnecessarily perhaps, that the product of this evolution will not be English, but American. And the prospect pleases him; leave him with the anticipatory smile on his lips of a prophet satisfied of his augury. Dr. SAMUEL M. CROTHERS appears to resent the placarding of public conveyances with warnings and admonitions:

"Dr. CROTHERS said this superlatively bad speech to men engaged in useful occupations, undertook to render wholly gratuitous service outside their own line by the printed word."

"In addition to conveying persons from one place to another, street railway companies, he said, addressed moral maxims to passengers on placards, admonishing them not to push or crowd, or spit on the floor."

Citizens with no pretence to literary authority have believed that transportation managers decorated cars and buses with warnings against crowding and pushing to facilitate the movement of the public, to decrease discomfort, and to ward off damage suits. That pride of authorship possessed them has not been suspected. The familiar notices quoting the sanitary code have hitherto been attributed to the enthusiasm of the health authorities, rather than to official and corporation itch for the fame to be derived from the printed word. Dr. CROTHERS corrects this misunderstanding. From love of literature, and not fear of the jury spring "Watch Your Step" and "Keep to the Right."

We share nobody's fears about the future of the language. Our solicitude is stirred by only one thought: The poor old language is used so much that it is in danger of being worn out. Cannot a day of rest for words be decreed?

Screen Kisses.

The most irritating questions that come thundering down the ages are those annoying queries that no generation can answer. Where was Moses when the light went out? How old is ANS? Who struck BILLY PATTERSON? These and other historic interrogatories to which there can be no satisfactory reply form a list that is intellectually stimulating but begets nothing of more value than unsatisfactory and conflicting conclusions. And now to this disturbing category has been added the perplexing problem as to how long a strictly legitimate and low bidding kiss should last. The motion picture censors in several States of the Union have been compelled to answer this query, and in a tentative way have placed a time limit upon osculatory exhibits beyond which, it has been ruled, they cannot go without becoming detrimental to the public welfare.

Eight feet of film is the limit in Pennsylvania for a pictorial kiss that can be considered lawful, while Ohio, Kansas and a few other liberal minded commonwealths allow ten feet to a legal kiss. Without casting any reflection upon the common sense exhibited by the censors responsible for these decrees, is there not reason to assert that they approach the subject of screen osculation from the wrong direction? Does the inherent morality of a kiss lie in its duration? It would be as reasonable to ask, would it not, whether the length of

time it took a burglar to rifle a safe should determine the period of his imprisonment.

The problems that spring from osculation increase constantly in number and complexity. Its moral aspects, formerly the only ones debatable, have been reinforced of late by considerations springing from the new hygiene. Science, art, morality, political economy and the new freedom are all interested to-day in the kiss as a live problem that must be met and solved. But the movie censors are making no progress toward clarifying the present involved osculatory situation by endeavoring to use the metric system as an ally to enlighten morality.

It must be borne in mind by all reformers who are endeavoring to eliminate objectionable features from the picture plays that drama possesses some inalienable rights of its own. A playwright or scenario writer should not be hampered in his task by a rule that compels him to limit all kisses, uplifting or otherwise, to eight feet of film. All that the censors can reasonably demand is that the movie dramatists shall always enforce the lesson that lawless osculation invariably meets with condign punishment. An unjustifiable kiss is not wrong because of its record in units of time but because it should never have been imprinted.

This argument is not presented from any lack of sympathy with the efforts of our State censors to free the moving pictures from pernicious features. It is merely put forward as a protest against forcing any time limit upon pictorial osculation because of the fundamentally unsound and misleading contention that a given kiss is justifiable or unjustifiable merely in relation to its duration.

BRITAIN'S portrait on view.—Newspaper headline.
A speaking likeness?

The Danes have voted against the sale to the United States of the West Indian islands for which we offered \$25,000,000. They probably believe that if the islands are now worth to this country five times what they were ten years ago, it will not hurt Denmark to hold them a few years longer.

Twenty-four acres of swamp in Van Cortlandt Park are to be reclaimed and turned into a playground, with tennis courts, swimming pool, gymnasium, basketball and handball courts, gridiron and running track, and a grand stand with 12,000 seats. New Yorkers play as hard as they work, and the new acquisition will be welcome to everybody, no matter how tired they are. It might so easily have been made ten times as big.

Speaker CLARK asks too much. He may be able to get Congress to surrender its holiday recess, but he will not be able to impose truthfulness on the Congressional Record.

I am informed that instead of the comparatively modest sum accounted for in the official report, the Republican actually spent about \$100,000 on the campaign.—Senator THOMAS P. GORE of Oklahoma.

The expenditure reported by the Republican National Committee was about \$2,500,000. Senator GORE furnishes an interesting index of the effect of prosperity on the Oklahoma mind.

The Federal Trade Commission reports that doubt and fear as to legal restrictions prevent Americans from developing trade organizations for overseas business as effective as those set up in other nations, and the principal sufferers from this are the smaller concerns. As long as the chief sufferers from meddlesome enactments and unnecessary prosecutions were the large corporations commonly known as "trusts," Government opposition to commercial enterprise was popularly regarded as a blessing. Now that its full effects are apparent to everybody, we may hope for a rational revision of the national attitude toward business.

The accounts of Sing Sing prison are said to be badly tangled. The Mutual Welfare League ought to be able to understand that in Sing Sing, New York, there is no such thing as straightening them out.

JONAH AND THE WHALE.

Bahalism, Too, Has an Interpretation of the Great Adventure.
To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: In the story recently there was an interpretation of the story of Jonah and the whale. Here is another given by the great Eastern sage, Abdul Baha, as follows: Jonah represents the human spirit sent into the world, or the whale, in which it remains three days or periods of darkness, symbolizing evolution. When the spirit reaches the fourth station, then it can cast forth into freedom or enlightenment. The tests and trials of the journey are symbolized by the winds and storms incident to this life.

M. A. WATSON.
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 2.

Precedents for Colonel House?

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: I believe President Wilson has ample precedents for sending Colonel House abroad without the consent of the Senate. During the civil war President Lincoln commissioned Thurlow Weed and Bishop MacViney of Ohio to go to England and Archbishop John Hughes to France in a much similar capacity to prevail upon England and France not to recognize the Confederacy. In 1847, before the outbreak of the Mexican war, President Polk, through James Buchanan, the Secretary of State, requested Archbishop Hughes to go to Mexico, but as the President would not designate him as the American Minister the Archbishop declined to go.

THE BUONIS, December 2.

The purpose of the unofficial missions of Archbishop Hughes and the other eminent citizens was to exert their personal influence and social tact for the benefit of the national cause.

Poor Old Ponce de Leon!

From the St. Augustine Record.
This sign is to notify the public that I have the greatest and all persons are known as the Fountain of Youth and Neptune Park. From this day on I will not allow any trespassing by the neighbors' children or their horses, cattle, hogs or chickens.

MAKING AMERICANS.

Success of an Educational League Devoted to the Duties of Citizens.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: The crying need in this country to-day is a higher quality of citizenship. The American citizen, and only through long and careful education can this be accomplished. I am convinced that many of our social ills for which legislation is sought can be surely and permanently cured by conscious effort on the part of the body of our citizens most exhaustive investigation and reference, to publish for the first time a list of the wild quadrupeds, wild birds and fish found in Alabama. Every effort has been made to make this list both accurate and complete.

Particular mention of the opossum, the raccoon and the skunk, the animals paraded by Alabama sportsmen led to a peek at the chapters on these quadrupeds. Perhaps Commissioner Wallace had discovered something about the possum that had evaded other students of our only marsupial mammal. What we read seemed to be a list of the animals by the side of the Wallace report and was laid Volume II of "The American Natural History" (Scribner, 1914), by William T. Hornaday, director of the New York Zoological Park.

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Except for two or three words, Commissioner Wallace seems to agree verbatim with Dr. Hornaday in regard to the wiles of the opossum. Now for the coon:

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ALABAMA'S ANIMALS.

Let Us Hunt a Few of Them with the Deadly Parallel.

A copy has come to THE SUN of the fifth biennial report of the Department of Game and Fish of the State of Alabama, addressed to his Excellency the Hon. Charles Henderson, Governor, by John H. Wallace, Jr., State Game and Fish Commissioner, and dated October 26, 1916. Early in the book of 232 pages it is announced that the department "has undertaken, after a most exhaustive investigation and reference, to publish for the first time a list of the wild quadrupeds, wild birds and fish found in Alabama. Every effort has been made to make this list both accurate and complete."

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